

DC Bicycle Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2003

Members in attendance:

Rudi Schreiber
Dan Barry
James Koski
Chris Craig
Denise D'Amore
Amy Nevel
Jacque Patterson
Conrad Smith
Lyn Stoesen
Lt. Patrick Burke
Raymon Murchison
Jim Sebastian

Quorum Call

A quorum was reached shortly after 6pm. Mr. Schreiber pointed out that the meeting represents the one-year anniversary of the BAC.

Approval of Minutes.

The minutes were approved without comments.

Master Plan Update

Tammy Sufi of Toole Design (formerly Sprinkle Consulting) introduced the existing conditions report. WABA and Toole Design have reviewed current and previous planning efforts and spent two days cycling around DC to check out the conditions. The draft existing conditions report was distributed at the meeting. The team is still looking for input on this report.

The bike plan web site is almost complete, through which one can send comments, or send comments to tsufi@tooledesign.com. All comments on the existing conditions report should be in by 2-15-03.

Bob Schneider of Toole Design has been creating GIS maps of bike facilities and other features in DC for two reasons: to create the user friendly bike map, and to make recommendations for future improvements. There is a draft map of existing bike lanes and trails (but not all bike routes) in the existing conditions report.

Eric Gilliland of WABA discussed his work on the existing conditions report. DDOT has added 5 miles of bike lanes since 2000. Bike routes ('shared lanes') will be integral to this system, but DC's 13 routes are in a state of disrepair. Bike rack installation is progressing well. Off-street (i.e. garage) parking is required, but enforcement is not well-coordinated. Bridges were also reviewed, and were found to be in disrepair, with crumbling surfaces, debris, narrow walkways and poor connectivity. There are 50+ miles of trails in DC, plus 20 more in planning/design stages. Bikes and transit were examined, and found to be very good. There is a need for better information and better signage, however. Racks have been installed on all Metrobuses, and a promotional campaign is underway. In terms of outreach, there was a local 'Safe Street' campaign in May and now a regional 'Street Smart' campaign through COG. Barriers are being constructed to bicyclists as a part of increased terrorism prevention efforts, and bicyclists need to be aware and weigh in on these changes.

Someone asked if commercial parking operations need to provide bike parking. Mr. Sebastian said yes.

Someone suggested that bike connectivity to MD and VA be included in more detail.

Mr. Sebastian mentioned that ward-based public workshops will be held this spring and summer, in coordination with the BAC. We need to get feedback from public on where people want to ride, where there are problems, etc. Mr. Sebastian handed out worksheets to help plan and coordinate the workshops. Ms. Nevel recommended staggering meeting dates and making an effort to encourage people to go to as many of these meetings as they wish. Mr. Craig suggested that the meetings should be combined with rides around the wards to draw the immediacy of the concerns into play. Ms. Stoesen cautioned against making the rides and meetings too long. Ms. D'Amore recommended holding rides on the weekend prior to the meeting.

The group agreed to hold 4 rides (Wards 1&2, then 3&4, 5&6, 7&8). The rides will take place on a Saturday, followed by 2 meetings the next week. For example, after the Ward 1&2 ride, there will be a Ward 1 workshop on Tuesday and a Ward 2 Workshop on Thursday.

South Capitol Street Bridge Problems

The BAC sent a letter to Councilmember Carol Schwartz and DDOT Director Dan Tangerlini describing the trail and sidewalk conditions and asking what could be done to improve the appalling situation. Mr. Sebastian said he would contact the appropriate staff at DDOT to work on 1) sweeping of the sidewalk and 2) short-term resurfacing of the trail.

Met Branch Trail update

Mr. Holben said that he is interviewing firms for the design of the remainder of the trail. One should be selected in two weeks. DDOT is about to release an alignment study for the Takoma section alone, since that is a contentious local issue. Ellen Jones of WABA is working to get the Met Branch designated as a DC heritage trail, which will culminate

in special signs along the trail celebrating the history of the adjacent neighborhoods, similar to the U Street trail and Civil War To Civil Rights trail downtown.

BAC Meeting Dates for 2003

There was discussion as to whether to move the meetings on dates near 4th of July and Labor Day. The group decided to move the July 2 meeting to July 9. The dates are as follows: March 5, May 7, July 9, September 3, and November 5.

Other Business

Mr. Sebastian reported that all legislation, including the 2 bike/ped- related bills, need to be re-introduced this City Council session. The Legislative Committee scheduled a meeting for 2-4-03 to re-organize our efforts. D'Amour will try to organize a Safety Committee meeting. It was decided that the Facilities Committee business was covered by bike plan work, which will be covered at the regular BAC meetings

Mr. Sebastian mentioned that the National Park Service will be releasing a General Management Plan for Rock Creek Park which will include recommendations on Beach Drive. Mr. Sebastian will keep us apprised.

Klinge Road was discussed. Councilmember Cropp introduced a bill to re-open the road. The BAC has not taken a position on the issue. Bike accessibility has been examined and it's unlikely that bike access would be feasible with a two-lane road. The mayor position is to convert the road to a park with a bike/ped trail. The BAC could weigh-in on the issues in the form of advice to the mayor, as it pertains to bicycle access. The group asked for a presentation on the issue at a future meeting.

Chris Craig received an email from a person in Ward 2 who had his bike impounded by the police because he did not have a light (at night) or registration. Lt. Burke noted that this action is legal but unusual. Now the person is having difficulty retrieving his bike due to lack of proof of ownership. Mr. Schreiber said that this issue should be taken up by the legislative committee since providing proof of ownership is often hard to do. Eric Gilliland of WABA would like the DC Bicycle Courier Association to weigh in on the issue and will invite them to the February 4 Legislative Committee meeting.